



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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August 10, 2004

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CREATIVE
LEARNING INSTITUTE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Creative Learning Institute Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Creative Learning Institute, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Creative Learning Institute Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Creative Learning Institute Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children. Creative Learning Institute Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with three children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to make repairs to its facility; maintain court authorizations for prescribed sleep medications; and provide each resident with a photo album/life book.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:DR:CC:mn

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Gwendolyn Haynes, Executive Director, CLI Group Home
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
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**Creative learning Institute Group Home
1702 North Wilmington Avenue
Compton, 90222
Phone: (310) 886-3397
License No.: 198200784
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Three

Comments:

The Creative Learning Institute Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is moderately maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. However, in the backyard there is a leaky pipe sticking out of a hole presenting a safety hazard. There is also a deteriorated and unusable bench in the garden area.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The common rooms were recently painted. Chairs in the living room were removed and new ones ordered. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment, including stereos, a TV, and a DVD player. There are also books and a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

1. Creative Learning Institute Group Home management:

- a. Repair the hole and leaky pipe in the backyard.**
- b. Replace/remove the deteriorated bench in the garden area.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Three

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There is appropriate documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for two of the residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other two residents have not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy. One resident recently completed a drug diversion program.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Three

Comments:

Two of the residents attend regular classes at a local school. One resident will attend summer school and the other resident recently received a college scholarship for this year. Residents' records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Three

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for one case file

Comments:

The Agency does not have a court authorization on file for the resident's use of one sleep medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

2. Creative Learning Institute Group Home management obtain a court authorization for prescribed sleep medication.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment – Resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Three****Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. Residents reported that they liked the Group Home's "home-cooked" meals. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with most staff.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and they feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Three**

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

The residents do not have photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. Creative Learning Institute Group Home management provide each resident with a photo album/life book.**